

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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INFORMATION ON SHORTAGE OF RICE AND FAT IN CHINA

SHORTAGE OF RICE -- Brussels, La Libre Belgique, 9 Dec 53

A serious food shortage exists in Communist China according to information received from refugees, radio broadcasts, and correspondents. In Shanghai it is difficult to purchase more than 5 kilograms of grain per week although there is no official rationing. People must come early and stand in long queues to buy any kind of food supplies.

There is no rice available; only millet, wheat, and string beans, which the Chinese consider low in nutritive value. Oil or fat, when available, is rancid and is sold in very small quantities.

Hong Kong picked up a Radio Hunan broadcast appealing to the people of the interior to eat less to conserve food reserves. The broadcast asked them to mix other food with rice, since the rice harvest had been poor. The broadcast also stated that the reserves thus created should be sold to aid in national construction and production. The people were requested not to use rice for feeding livestock or for making brandy.

RICE AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS RATIONED -- Lisbon, Diario da Manhã, 24 Dec 53

Hong Kong, 23 December (AFP) -- According to information coming out of China, rice is now being rationed in Canton and in all of Kwantung Province, one of the richest rice producing regions of China. Rice has been rationed since late November in Kwangsi Province, where the daily ration is reported to be about 250 grams in the country and slightly higher in the cities. The pretext given by the authorities is the need to prevent hoarding and speculation.

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Oil or fat is already rationed in Shanghai. Also in Shanghai, it is impossible to find polished rice. Flour /kind not specified/ will be rationed in northern China beginning 1 January 1954.

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